

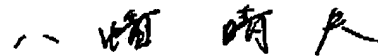
REMARKS

Claims 11-18 are now pending in the application. All rejected claims 1-7 and 10 have been canceled herein. New claims 13-18 which correspond to original claims 2-7, respectively, have been added herein. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 11 and 12. Features recited in new claims 13-18 have been presented in original claims 2-7, respectively. Thus, no new matter has been introduced by the amendments. Since independent claims 11 and 12 were allowed, new claims 13-18 are also allowable for at least the reasons in connection with allowed claims 11 and 12.

Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance at an early date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 510-663-1100, ext. 245.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP



Haruo Yawata
Limited Recognition under 37 CFR § 10.9(b)

Beyer Weaver & Thomas, LLP
P.O. Box 70250
Oakland, CA 94612-0250
510-663-1100, ext. 245